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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 11 June 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 15 May 1953, the Schweinrich troop training grounds was occupied by about 7,000 to 8,000 troops.

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the troops received theoretical instruction in their billeting areas. On 15 May, several senior officers were seen inspecting the individual training sites at the border of the training area. the exercises of the individual units would start within a few days. Two 2 T-34/85 tanks and an undetermined number of motor vehicles

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2. Between 6 and 8 May, a practice, which involved 9 T-34 tanks and 2 infantry companies, was observed in the area of the Schweinrich troop training grounds, spreading from the Alt-lutterow area to an area, about 5 km north of Frankendorf. In the afternoon of 8 May, the troops were loaded on trucks and left toward Raegelin, with the tanks following immediately. Between 2 and 14 May, there was an unusual lull at the training grounds. No firing practices were observed. The construction unit stationed in Klausheide had been employed only in road construction work. All the roads to the Wulkow ammunition depot were being reconditioned by this unit. Motor vehicles seen en route to the training area

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3. At about 4:45 p.m. on 15 May, a troop train carrying 6 rocket launchers and 7 trucks, and including boxcars occupied by troops, was seen en route from Dranse toward Wittstock.²

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4. At about 4:30 p.m. on 10 May, three tank cars were seen at the Dranse railroad station. During the draining of the tank cars, 4 tank trucks, including

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3 trucks, carrying gasoline barrels

5. On 3 May, a tent camp on a clearing was in Jagen (forest section) No 118. the troops stationed in the tent camp were exclusively employed in cutting wood. At about 4 a.m. on 26 May, intensive noise from tank engines from the direction of Rossow the noise indicated a major tank column.

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6. On 27 May, the Schweinrich troop training grounds was heavily occupied. Colonel Ananiyev (fnu), who had been at the training grounds prior to 18 May, was on leave. On 27 May, [] the Schweinrich-Zechlin road was blocked because of firing with live ammunition; five T-43 tanks [] were at driving practice or dug-in northeast of Heideberge; troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with eight heavy machine guns on carriages, were engaged in entrenching work; about 30 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia practiced signaling with red and white flags; numerous individual low wooden buildings were scattered all over the wooded area. About 3 km east of Schweinrich, a headquarters was stationed in 8 low wooden buildings; and about 5 km east of Schweinrich, [] a camp with 2 long lean-to roofs, 31 canvas-covered T-43 tanks, 6 x 76-mm guns, 12 x 57-mm AT guns, 63 trucks and an undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia. A medical camp with three low wooden buildings and equipped with 19 ambulances was 1 km south of Droge Lake.

7. On 4 May, [] a lieutenant acted as deputy of Major Tarariyev (fnu), administrative officer of Unit Denisov at the Wittstock airfield, who was on leave. Major Tarariyev succeeded Major Kibets (fnu). []

1. [] Comment. The information confirms the occupation of the Wittstock troop training grounds by the 18th Mecz Div until late May. The period prior to mid-May during which no exercises had been observed, probably was used for the preparation of the quarters and theoretical instruction in the quartering areas, as had been observed every year during the period after the occupation of the training grounds. The camps mentioned in paragraph 6, in general, check with information contained in a previous report. [] The camp 5 km east of Schweinrich presumably was occupied by a mechanized regiment of the abovementioned division. The known Colonel Ananiyev (fnu) is chief-of-staff of the division.

2. [] Comment. The train probably carried a unit of the 32d RL Bn (US) of the 18th Mecz Div, which may have moved to Altengrabow for firing practice.

3. [] Comment. Unit Denisov is the engineer unit known from a previous report [] and is employed in work at the Wittstock airfield. Except for Major Tarariyev (fnu), the officer names have previously been reported []

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